



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"



June 15, 2004

Tim Gallagher, Director

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE USE OF WILLIAM S. HART ENDOWMENT PRINCIPAL FOR THE
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF WILLIAM S. HART PARK
(Fifth District – 3-Vote Matter)**

**JOINT RECOMMENDATION WITH THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER THAT YOUR
BOARD:**

Authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation to draw \$10,000 annually from the William S. Hart endowment for the maintenance and operation of William S. Hart Park until the remaining principal balance is depleted.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of this action will authorize the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to draw \$10,000 annually from the William S. Hart endowment, which was established to provide funding for the operation and maintenance of William S. Hart Park. For many years, the Department has only drawn interest income from the endowment to support the facility. While operating and maintenance costs have increased, this year's interest income is estimated at less than \$5,000.

Effective FY 2004-2005, the Department and Auditor-Controller recommend that the County begin drawing \$10,000 of the endowment principal annually. This amount, plus annual interest income, represents the maximum amount to be withdrawn under the provisions of the endowment and would help ensure that funds are available for livestock care, pest control, and other service requirements.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This recommendation supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility. Available funds from the endowment will be transferred to fund eligible General Fund operating costs.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

If approved, the \$10,000 annual drawdown would commence in FY 2004-2005 and such funds are included in the Department's FY 2004-05 proposed budget to offset ongoing operating and maintenance costs.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Upon his death, William S. Hart bequeathed his former residence and personal belongings to the County of Los Angeles to operate and maintain as a public park. In addition, Mr. Hart established an endowment to provide for the maintenance and upkeep of the facility. The endowment balance has remained at its present level of \$270,210.94 since 1978. Under the terms of Mr. Hart's will, the County is allowed to withdraw up to \$10,000 of the endowment principal plus interest, provided that the funds are used to pay for the maintenance and operation of the Hart Park facility.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

Income from the endowment will be used to fund existing expenditures related to the maintenance and operation of William S. Hart Park.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that one (1) conformed copy be sent to the Department of Parks and Recreation and one (1) conformed copy be sent to the Auditor-Controller.

Respectfully Submitted,


For Tim Gallagher
Director

 FOR
J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller

TG:MM:MJK:tlis

c: Executive Officer (22)